and special measures thought of for this purpose.

4. Malnutrition among tribals is a major concern and special measures need to be taken to check the same.
5. Endemic diseases among tribals such as guinea worm, goitre, etc. should be contained/eradicated through specific measures.
6. Educational Schemes like post-matric scholarships, Ashram Schools, etc. which are very beneficial to tribal should be further strengthened.
7. The literacy level among tribal female is extremely low and needs to be trackled effectively through appropriate schemes/programmes.
8. Lift irrigation schemes in tribal areas could be further strengthened.
9. Effective measures for protecting the tribal from exploitation by private traders, etc. should be thought of.
10. The customary/traditional rights of tribals on forest product should be *recognised*.

Production by the Units set up in the Visakhapatnam Export processing zone

1703. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:
DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of allottees of land in Visakhapatnam Export Processing Zone since the beginning and the extent of production of each one of them;

(b) the units which have commenced commercial production so far.

(c) the value of exports made by the different units in VEPZ for the last three years, year-wise;

(d) the details of units, if any, declared sick before they could start commercial production; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to increase the exports from VEPZ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) 13 (Thirteen) industrial units have been allotted land/built up space in Visakhapatnam Export Processing Zone (VEPZ) since inception of which two units are in operation. Units are approved and allotted land and built up space in Export Processing Zones keeping in view factors like level of exports, and value addition projects. The units which have been allotted space broadly fall under the product groups of computer systems and fax paper rolls, ready made garments, pharmaceutical products, plastic goods, automobile wheels, beer etc.

(c) Export from the Zone have commenced only in 1994-95. The value of exports made from VEPZ during 1994-95 and 1995-96 was of the order of Rs. 40 lakhs and Rs. 89 lakhs respectively.

(d) No unit has been declared sick before commencement of commercial production.

(e) Steps taken to increase exports from Export Processing Zones include broadening of the area of activity to include trading, reexport after re-packing/labeling, repairs, re-conditioning and re-engineering, higher access to the domestic market, flexible value addition norms and simplification of custom procedures. In addition, the Zone Administration are also making efforts to attract industrial projects into the Zone through suitable publicity measures, addressing Indian Missions abroad, conducting Seminars with entrepreneurs, Chambers of Commerce etc.